Fire incident at Mahul

*89. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Petroleum Karamchari Union have requested the Government of India to enquire into the fire incident of December 12, 1987 at its unit at Mahul, Chembur, Bombay; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government and what are the findings of the enquiry if any, made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b). The fire accident occurred on 12th December, 1987.

The Hindustan Petroleum Karamchari Union had asked HPCL to institute an enquiry in their strike notice given on various other grounds on 30th December 1987. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., had, however, constituted a Committee headed by Director (Production) to investigate into the causes of the accident on 14th December 1987. The Committee also includes an expert from the Oil Industry Safety Directorate. After discussions with the management of HPCL the union withdrew the strike notice on 11th January, 1988.

The Committee is expected to submit its report to the Chairman and Managing Director by the first week of March, 1988.

Hike in the coal price

*90 SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently raised the prices of coal;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof indicating the comparative prices before and after the price hike;

(c) what are the major reasons for the hike in the coal prices and what is the anticipated percentage of rise in revenue earnings as a result thereof; and

(d) what is its likely impact on the consumers in the various industrial sectors and the economy as a whole due to the all round escalation in the prices as a consequence thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The coal prices for the coal produced by Coal India Limited have been revised w.e.f. 23rd December 1987. After revision the pit-head prices of various grades of non-coking coal and coking coal vary from Rs 100/- per tonne to Rs. 405/- per tonne and Rs. 246|- per tonne to Rs. 573|- per tonne as against from Rs. 74.50 per tonne to Rs. 342|- per tonne and from Rs. 207|- per tonne to Rs .482|- per tonne before price revision respectively. The prices of Hard Coke and Soft Coke have not been raised.

(c) The recent revision of coal price has been made after considering the report of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices which undertook an indepth study of the normative cost of production and various other factors including the impact of upward revision of coal prices on core sectors and on the national economy as a whole.

The increase in the price of coal has been necessitated because of increase in the cost of production due to escalation in the wages, stores, power, capital costs etc.

Anticipated percentage increase in revenue is 15 per cent.

(d) Consumer has to pay State taxes, royalty and transport charges in addition to the pit-head price of coal. Therefore, the impact on the consumers is likely to be well below the increase in the pit-head price of coal in percentage terms. Since different States levy different taxes and transport charges depend on the location of consumers, the impact will be different in different places.

The impact of an increase in the price of coal without taking into account any other consequential increase in prices is roughly estimated to be 0.01 per cent for every one percent increase in the price of coal. The ultimate effect on the general price level after considering the consequential increase in other prices is roughly 0.7 per cent for every one percent increase in the price of coal.

Import of petty items by Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Station

*91. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that petty items like stair-railings, etc., are being imported from the Soviet Union for the Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Station of NTPC;

(b) what are other similar items which are being imported, even though they can be procured indigenously;

(c) what is the amount being spent annually on imports of such items; and

(d) whether the Prime Minister's instructions to curtail the avoidable expenditure, have been adhered to in this matter if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (d) The Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Project is being implemented with Soviet assistance in accordance with the Agreement on Economic and Technical cooperation entered into between the Governments of India and the USSR in December, 1980. The contract concluded between the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and M|s. Technopromexport, USSR in June, 1982 in regard to this project provides for the supply of equipment|materials, including steam generators and auxiliaries, steam turbines and auxiliaries, power cycle piping, condensate and feed water system some auxiliaries of coal handling plant, etc., along with elaboration of detailed project report and working drawings and the deputation of Soviet specialists to India.

The supply of equipments and materials, including stair-railings constitute a part of total packages and prices are settled for the package as a whole.

सीमेंट उद्योग में वित्तीय संकट

*92. श्री रसीद मसूद :

श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी :

क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में सीमेंट उद्योग को हाल ही में वित्तीय संकट का सामना करना पड़ रहा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ग) इस स्थिति में सुधार करने के लिये सरकार द्वारा क्या क्या प्रभावी कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री जे० वेंगल राव) : (क) से (ग) सीमेंट की उत्पादन लागत में वृद्धि और गैर-लेवी सीमेंट की बिक्री से होने वाली वसूली मे आई कमी के कारण सीमेंट उद्योग के समक्ष आने वाली वित्तीय समस्याओं के संबंध में अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं । इस उद्योग ने सीमेंट संयंत्रों की कुछ श्रेणियों के लिये लेवी दायित्व को कम करने की मांग की है । उद्योग ने बिजली शुल्क, कोयले के मूल्य, रेलवे द्वारा कोयले की ढुलाई में हुयी वृद्धि, मंहगाई भत्ते की दरों में हुयी वृद्धि के कारण, लेवी सीमेंट के संधारण मूल्य में वृद्धि करने की भी मांग की है । इस संबंध में अब तक सरकार द्वारा कोई निर्णय नहीं लिया गया है ; तथापि, सीमेंट उद्योग की लाभकारिता में सुधार करने और सीमेंट उत्पादन को अधिकतम करने के उद्देश्य से सरकार द्वारा समय-समय पर अनेक राहतें दी गई हैं । सीमेंट उद्योग को दये गये महत्वपूर्ण प्रोत्साहन और राहतें निम्नलिखित हैं :—

(1) उत्पादन की लागत में वृद्धि के लिये उद्योग की क्षतिपूर्ति करने तथा उद्योग की अपनी लाभकारिता सुधारने के दोहरे उद्देश्यों